


KAP 102 DIV

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Aaron V. Kaplan et al.)
For: Methods and Apparatus)
for Transpericardial Left)
Atrial Appendage Closure)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 5, 2001.


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Reg. No. 27,357

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee for this divisional application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Before the first line, insert the following sentence – This application is a divisional of co-pending application Serial No. 09/315,601, filed on May 20, 1999. –

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-9 and 27-28.

REWRITTEN CLAIMS IN CLEAN FORM

Please amend Claim 26 as follows:

26. (Amended) A kit comprising:

a closure device; and

instructions for use setting forth a method comprising:

positioning a closure instrument through a percutaneous passage into a

pericardial space beneath the rib cage, over an epicardial surface, and adjacent to the left atrial appendage, without passing through the pleural space; and

closing the left atrial appendage using the closure instrument.

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application based on Serial No. 09/315,601, filed May 20, 1999. A restriction requirement was entered in the parent application and applicant elected claims 1-9 and 26-28 and cancelled claims 10-25 as drawn to a non-elected invention. Claim 26 also was cancelled. The present application is filed to prosecute claims 10-25 and 26. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 27-28 are cancelled herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

26. (Amended) A kit comprising:

a closure device; and

instructions for use setting forth a method comprising: [as in claim 1.]

positioning a closure instrument through a percutaneous passage into a
pericardial space beneath the rib cage, over an epicardial surface, and adjacent to the left atrial
appendage, without passing through the pleural space; and
closing the left atrial appendage using the closure instrument.